**Ethics Reflection**

Answer 2 of the following reflection questions; write at least 150 words on each.

1. How important is consistency in moral reasoning?
2. Does History show we have made moral progress?

1.

Kant would argue that absolute consistency is needed to make moral decisions. It does not matter which details there are to the scenario as something is either morally wrong or morally right. This ideology states that no one deserves special treatment, but also that no one can be discriminated against. The problem with this is that in my opinion there cannot be a general consistency in moral reasoning. If I look at every decision I have ever made on a moral basis, I am bound to find inconsistency with every choice. Nonetheless I feel my decisions were correct, or at least justified. The details to a scenario can change the morality of it. Consider lying. Generally speaking lying is always wrong, at least in my opinion. Now consider the serial killer who asks you for the location of your best friend that he wants to kill. Do you lie to protect your friend or do you tell the truth cause that would be morally consistent? I believe most of society would agree with me that this scenario would allow for a white-lie. This is just one of a billion moral decisions that prove consistency is not vital to moral reasoning. There is no doubt that certain decisions tend to be similar, but sometimes details change the scenario entirely.

2.

It is hard to argue whether something can be considered progress. This is because progress does not ultimately have to be progress to everyone. To certain individuals the feminist movement is not progress. Still I believe society has made progress with establishing a base for morality. The most basic example are the moral grounds on which most of the world’s religions are founded (e.g. Don’t steal, don’t murder, don’t cheat on your wife.) These basic moral decrees have evolved into moral agreements such as the “Declaration of Human Rights”. Of course these aren’t universal decrees. Nothing is really universally right or wrong, but it does have the agreement of a majority of the world population. This is to say that a majority of the world would agree the rights stated in the Declaration of Human Rights apply to every individual in the world (e.g. Art. 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person). I would consider this to be progress, but not everyone has the same mindset as I do. We use reason and emotion interchangeably to determine whether something is morally right or wrong. As everyone has different experiences, emotions and feeling towards certain things, often deriving from their cultural background and surroundings, everyone is bound to see certain things differently. This is why it is hard to state that moral progress has been made. Still I think it is hard to argue that no progress has been made at all.